

House Resolution No. 385

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State organizations that admirably better the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their endeavors in the arts; and

Whereas, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey is committed to developing a diverse audience for the arts through programs that offer quality experiences for all area residents, especially such underserved populations as at-risk youth and African American or other minority communities; and

Whereas, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey will enhance its already impressive record of achievement when it receives a Missouri Arts Award in Arts Education on February 13, 2008, from the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Missouri Arts Council; and

Whereas, since its establishment in 1984, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey has grown from a grassroots organization into a full professional arts institution with a budget of \$1.3 million, a full-time staff of eight, a roster of more than thirty-five teaching artists, and a membership and volunteer base of more than three hundred; and

Whereas, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey reach more than 35,000 young people through such educational programs as AileyCamp, a summer program for urban youth that has now been replicated in seven cities across the United States and that has been recognized with the Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, a Dance for Life partnership with Met Life, a Governor's Arts Award from the state of Kansas, and a Neighborhood Builders Award from Bank of America; and

Whereas, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey also offer annual public performances, school mini-performances, in-school programs, community outreach, local touring lectures and demonstrations, after-school programs, other special events, master classes, and community partnerships:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt congratulations upon the organization's receipt of a Missouri Arts Award in the area of Arts Education; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey.

Offered by _____
Representative John Burnett
District No. 40

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 385, adopted February 5, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker